

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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3 An annuloplasty ring includes an anterior portion, and
4 a posterior portion which defines a central portion and two
5 lateral portions. The ring is adapted for optional removal
6 of the anterior and/or the central posterior portion.
7 Removal of the central posterior portion reduces the
8 gradient across the ring providing enhanced valve
9 performance. Removal of the anterior portion preserves
10 normal annular movement. The lateral posterior portions
11 are stiffer than the construction at the anterior and
12 central posterior portions. If the ring is used with the
13 central posterior portion intact, the gradient is also
14 reduced. The ring includes indicia of multiple sets of
15 suture markings, each set identifying a plurality of suture
16 locations about the perimeter of the ring which are adapted
17 to cinch the annulus a predetermined amount about the ring.
18 A single ring may be used to cinch the annulus in accord
19 with relatively different degrees of desired valve area
20 reduction.